IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1-9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a storage server, coupled to a network, having a mass storage device;

a multi-appliance management application (MMA) coupled to the network to manage the storage server; and

an agent coupled to the storage server and the MMA via the network, the agent to scan ~~the mass storage device~~a file and directory structure of the storage server to collect information about a file stored on the storage server, and to combine information collected into a summary of a directory in which the file is located, the summary being accessible to the MMA, wherein the agent, the MMA, and the storage server are separate devices, and wherein the agent uses a file system different from any file system that the storage server uses.

11-13. (Canceled)

14.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a graphical user interface (GUI) coupled to the MMA.

15-30. (Canceled)

31.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a database coupled to the MMA, the database to store the summary.

32.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the summary can be retrieved via the GUI.

33.   (Previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the agent uses a Common Internet File System (CIFS) or a Network File System (NFS).

34.   (Previously presented) A method comprising:

        causing an agent device to scan ~~a mass storage device~~a file and directory structure of a storage server to collect information about files maintained by the storage server;

        combining, by the agent device, information collected into a summary of a directory under which the files are stored; and

        sending the summary from the agent device to a multi-appliance management application (MMA), wherein the agent device, the MMA, and the storage server are separate devices, and wherein the agent device uses a file system different from any file system that the storage server uses.

35.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the MMA sends the summary to a database server, which stores the summary as a table or a histogram.

36.   (Previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the agent device uses

a Common Internet File System (CIFS) or a Network File System (NFS).